



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18AP51

Site Name: 22-26 West Street

Prehistoric

Other name(s) 22 West Street Backlot

Historic

Unknown

Brief Description:

18th-20th century urban backlots, residential and commercial

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 7

SCS soil & sediment code

Latitude 38.9813

Longitude -76.5059

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m Site slope

Ethnobotany profile available Maritime site

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Topography

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace
- High terrace
- Rockshelter/cave
- Hillslope
- Unknown
- Other

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Spa Creek/College Creek

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> | | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Minimum distance to water is 607 m | | | |

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown prehistoric context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860 Y
- ca. 1630 - 1675 Y
- ca. 1675 - 1720 Y
- ca. 1720 - 1780 P
- ca. 1780 - 1820 Y
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown Y
- Other

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

Prehistoric

- Multi-component
- Village
- Hamlet
- Base camp
- Rockshelter/cave
- Earthen mound
- Cairn
- Burial area
- Misc. ceremonial
- Rock art
- Shell midden
- STU/lithic scatter
- Quarry/extraction
- Fish weir
- Production area
- Unknown
- Other context

Historic

Urban/Rural? Urban

Domestic

- Homestead
- Farmstead
- Mansion
- Plantation
- Row/townhome
- Cellar
- Privy

Industrial

- Mining-related
- Quarry-related
- Mill
- Black/metalsmith
- Furnace/forge
- Other

Furnace/forge

Other

Transportation

- Canal-related
- Road/railroad
- Wharf/landing
- Maritime-related
- Bridge
- Ford

Educational

Commercial

- Trading post
- Store
- Tavern/inn

Military

Battlefield

Fortification

Encampment

Townsite

Religious

- Church/mtg house
- Ch support bldg

Burial area

- Cemetery
- Sepulchre
- Isolated burial

Bldg or foundation

Possible Structure

Post-in-ground

Frame-built

Masonry

Other structure

Slave related

Non-domestic agri

Recreational

Midden/dump

Artifact scatter

Spring or well

Unknown

Other context

urban backlot

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples

Soil samples taken

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

Historic context samples

Soil samples taken

N

Flotation samples taken

Other samples taken

N



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types

Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>		
				Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Sherd Types

Earthenware		Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staffordshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stoneware	
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>	English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearlware	<input type="checkbox"/>			Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
						Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features

Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Lithic Material

Fer quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sil sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
		European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated features present at site

Numerous historic features, containing diagnostic artifacts.

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Activity item(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc.	5000
Personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features

Privy/outhouse	<input type="checkbox"/>	Depression/mound	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	trash midden, brick firebox	
Cellar hole/cellar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>				

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 4: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 5: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 7: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at University of Maryland - College Park

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The 22-26 West Street Backlot (18AP51) is the archeological remains associated with a series of 18th-20th century urban backlots of mixed residential and commercial functions in the downtown area of Annapolis, Maryland. The site is situated on the landward side of a knoll that slopes southward to the Annapolis waterfront. Specifically, the property is an interior backlot of a block bounded by West, Calvert, and Northwest Streets. Most of the surrounding landscape is heavily developed as part of the urban landscape of Annapolis. Soils at the site are Monmouth sandy loams.

Site 18AP51 was originally part of Lot 71 on the 1718 Survey of the City of Annapolis. It was owned by John Slaughter, a townsman, who subdivided it several times. These lots went through a series of transactions until all of them were re-assembled into a single lot again in 1739 by Dr. Samuel Stringer. Stringer had began piecing the parcels back together in 1728. The transaction records associated with these sales provide hints of improvements on the properties. The re-assembled Lot 71 is believed to have had at least 3 houses on it in the early 18th century.

It seems highly probable that Stringer made substantial additions to the property in light of a considerable difference in price from his early 18th century purchases to that of the property's resale some 31 years later. The sum of the various transactions reveals that by 1739 Stringer had paid a total of £59 to acquire all of the lots. He sold Lot 71 in 1770 to Jonathan Pinkney for £660. The deed of that sale also records the fact that by the time of recordation, Pinkney was already in possession of the property. Stringer was residing in Albany, New York. It is not known how long Pinkney had been occupying Lot 71.

Some five years later, substantially in debt to William Roberts, Jonathan Pinkney arranged to sell at public auction his landholdings in Annapolis as well as tract he held elsewhere. A September 1775 issue of the Maryland Gazette lists for sale, "A lot of land lying in the City of Annapolis distinguished by the Number 71, on which are a brick dwelling house and other improvements, lately in the occupation of Mr. John Ball, innholder" at public auction on September 37th, 1775. A sale was made final on February 19th, 1776, for the sum of £440 to William Whetcroft, silversmith, who received Lot 71 with, "all buildings and appurtenances".

Twelve years later, on August 12th, 1778, Allen Quynn purchased, "...all of Lot 71 with dwelling house and tenement' thereon and improvements..." from Whetcroft for the price of £1,500. Quynn owned the adjoining Lot 70 and resided in a house on that property. Upon his death in 1803, his estate was to be sold at public auction. This situation remained unresolved, however, and the estate entered Chancery Court and was not resolved until the second decade of the 19th century.

Lot 71 began to be subdivided again in 1812 when John Johnson, a trustee for Quynn's estate, sold a portion of the lot to Richard B. Watts, on which a blacksmith shop was erected. The remainder of the lot, however, remained under the auspices of the Chancery Court until 1821 when William Brewer of Annapolis purchased the property. According to the description included in the Brewer transfer of April 6th, 1821, the tract (including dwellings and appurtenances) consisted of approximately .66 acres. On the following day, Brewer sold a majority of this lot (roughly .4 acres) with dwelling and appurtenances to Thomas Harris of Prince George's County for \$1,200.

One decade later, in 1831, Harris' heirs sold his portion of Lot 71 to the Honorable John Johnson, Jr., the Last Chancellor of Maryland, for the sum of \$3,000. Johnson and his wife remodeled the brick residence that was on the lot (facing West Street) and later moved in. Their home was, "...a commodious brick house with fourteen rooms, cellar, and a detached brick office". It is possible that the original brick structure that the Johnsons remodeled is the same "brick dwelling" that was present in 1770 when Jonathan Pinkney acquired the property.

At the time of Johnson's death in 1856, his eldest daughter, Laura, lived in the Annapolis homesite along West Street with her husband Lt. John Van Ness Philip, USN. In the settling of Chancellor Johnson's estate, the West Street house was sold in 1857 to Joseph Bellis for \$5,000.

The 1859 Sachse Bird's Eye View of Annapolis shows a lot of development on the portion of the block including the site. The level of detail, however, is such that specific attributions of the number, nature, and specific orientation of buildings is not possible. An 1878 map does, however, attribute the ownership of a structure on-site to "Jos. Bellis". An 1880 Annapolis Circuit Court record states that Joseph Bellis, owner and operator of the National Hotel, was cited as being \$600 in arrears with his property taxes. After Bellis' failure to pay, Thomas Ireland, Collector of Taxes, was ordered by the Court to seize the property and sell it at public auction. The property was repurchased by Bellis for the amount of owed taxes, \$600.

Sanborn Maps from the late 19th and early 20th centuries indicate that the 3-storey house that was present at 18AP51 was split into a duplex at least by 1885. The eastern half of the building was a boarding house along with a 2-storey rear addition that extended from it. The western half served as a residence and was owned by the Bellis family. A one storey outbuilding was located northeast of the boarding house. A two-storey addition was built at an odd angle to the rear of the western (dwelling) half of the duplex. By 1891, two small sheds were constructed to the rear of this dwelling. By 1897 a 1-storey addition was added to the 2-storey additions at the rear of both halves of the duplex. This suggests that quarters were getting cramped an expansion was necessary. A brick wall was also constructed separating the two properties and a small shed was placed at the end of the wall. An 1896 deed documented the transfers of the eastern (boarding) half of the duplex from the Bellis heirs to Maud E. Morrow, and the western half to Eva Bellis. Perhaps this division necessitated the erection of the wall by the time the 1897 Sanborn map was drawn.

By 1913, both halves of the duplex were labeled "Boarding" on Sanborn Maps, but by 1921 the western half was again a dwelling. A shop was also constructed in what would once have been the front yard of the property. The 1-storey addition on the western lot also appears to have become a support structure associated with a substantial garage entered from #29 Northwest Street. It is identified on the 1921 Sanborn map as a warehouse. Additional structures would be built in the former front yards areas, thus hiding the 18th century brick house at 18AP51 and the buildings were adapted for reuse for apartments and various retail/commercial functions (barber shop, life insurance offices, other). This original brick structure was entirely razed in the 1970s after its destruction by fire.

The first known archeological work in the vicinity of 18AP51 occurred in 1983, but no partial or final report of these excavations is known to exist. It is known that 5 test units were excavated and that they revealed largely intact brick surfaces and foundations. Examination of what notes do exists suggest that these excavations likely took place just off-site in the vicinity of 20 West Street. The site excavated in 1983 was assigned the site number 18AP35.

Sometime thereafter a simple site visit was made to the area by a researcher with "Archaeology in Annapolis" (AIA), who noted and sketched the presence of



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an extant brick wall. This brick wall had been exposed during the non-archeological excavation of a basement for a building that was being moved to the property from Prince George Street. This building was moved to the new basement in 1989 and became 20 West Street, adjacent to the site. Another small collection of artifacts was made when the structure was actually moved.

The first well-documented archeological excavations carried out in the area, and specifically at Site 18AP51, occurred in 1988 and 1989. Fieldwork was conducted on behalf of the Historic Annapolis Foundation for the property's owners, King and Cornwall, Inc. While the project was not a Section 106 compliance effort, the field methods and rationale for the site's investigation were comparable to those of standard Phase II site evaluations. It was believed that construction of a nearby parking garage might adversely impact the site. Moreover, the fieldwork was carried out by Archaeology in Annapolis, which receives public monies through the University of Maryland and periodic grants from the City of Annapolis.

Excavation work in 1988 and 1989 entailed the excavation of eighteen 1.524 X 1.524 m (5 X 5 ft) units in the rear yard area of the property. Unit placement was done judgmentally, based on walkover survey of the property and examination of the historic map data (mostly Sanborn Maps). Units were excavated according to natural stratigraphic layers, unless an individual stratum was thicker than 15.24 cm (6 in) in depth, at which point 15.24 cm arbitrary levels were used. Excavations were conducted by shovel skimming and trowelling (mostly with shovels), and soils were screened through hardware cloth. Excavation proceeded to sterile subsoil in only 4 of the units as deep fill was frequently encountered. All cultural materials were collected with the exception of brick, mortar, plaster, charcoal, slag, and bog iron, which were abundant and were only sampled. Exhaustive field notes were maintained and color photographic records were made of each unit at each stage of excavation. Measured field drawings, plan and profiles drawn to scale, were also made.

The first unit to undergo excavation was selected on the basis of evidence of brickwork protruding through the surface of the grass and noted during walkover. It was hoped that this brickwork would coincide with a structure indicated on Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps as having stood previously on the property. The orientation and scale of this structure became apparent in the course of excavation of this initial unit, as did a substantial degree of internal filling. This was the brick house documented historically for the site. The remaining units were then placed to sample the house foundation, cellar fill, yard area, and the presence of additional structures (also shown on the Sanborn Maps) located below the overgrown grasses of the backlot.

In all, excavations resulted in the recovery and identification of 53 features and numerous artifacts. Fifteen major soil strata were also encountered across the site (many of them layers of fill). Of the 53 features encountered, 8 were structural features, 15 were paved surfaces, 5 were features related to destruction episodes, 6 were rodent burrows, 2 were planting holes, 6 were midden/trash/fireplace debris areas, 6 were utility trenches, 1 was archeology-related, and 4 were indeterminate.

No summary table of artifacts from the site is provided in the full site report from the 1988-1989 excavations. Thus, the total number of artifacts recovered is minimally estimated at 5,000 miscellaneous historic objects.

Evidence as recovered from the 22-26 West Street backlot attests to the presence of an unidentified person of some means by the early 18th century. The archeological evidence indicates that a substantial brick building was also constructed on-site by the end of that century. Moving forward, one observes the presence of members of the top wealth group during the 18th century with a gradual slide down the economic scale into the 19th century. The 19th century occupation of 18AP51 was predicated almost solely on rental, mixed commercial and support service use, rooming house use, and a steady decline into disuse and decay. Moreover, the bulk of the 20th century occupation at 22 West Street was a duplex residence with business enterprises constructed in the "front yards" so as to maximize frontage along West Street.

No clear evidence of early craft production was recovered from the site. One piece of lead printer's type, common in fill deposits on sites across the city of Annapolis, was recovered. It had probably not seen use on-site. In fact, the early and late 18th century occupations appear to be wholly domestic in character. The relationship between home and workplace was renegotiated over time, as is attested to by the variety of outbuildings, additions, walkways, and paved surfaces crossing the site. Attempts to privatize lingering residential portions of the site were visible in the face of ever-increasing commercialization and urbanization. There was direct evidence for the intensification of land use as well as evidence for changing attitudes about domestic space, as the prestige of the property's address gave way to its profitability. Residents of the space tended to adapt by re-paving surfaces, rearranging, and consistently adding to the density of the site with rear additions and new shops in the front yard. This trend continued well into the late 20th century.

Though Site 18AP51 revealed the presence of intact artifact deposits and features, no additional work at the site is recommended. The site is heavily developed today, and it is unlikely that much remains intact for future research.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

00000167